

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GUAYAQ 00397 062124Z

67

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSC-05 SS-15 SP-02 NSCE-00 JUSE-00

SSO-00 INRE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 COME-00 L-02 EB-07 COA-01 SCA-01 H-01

DLOS-03 CG-00 DOTE-00 SCS-03 /060 W

----- 056077

O 062110Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3768

INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUAYAQUIL 397

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EFIS, PLOS, EC, US, CASC

SUBJ: SEIZED U.S. VESSELS: INCIDENT ON NEPTUNE

REF: GUAYAQUIL 393

1. DEWITT REPORTS AT 3:30 HE HAS SECURED RELEASE OF ALL NEPTUNE PERSONNEL, WHO NOW RETURNING TO BOAT. TWO ECUADOREAN GUARDS AND TWO U.S. OFFICERS ALSO ON BOARD. HE IS TRYING TO PERSUADE NAVAL AUTHORITIES NOT TO BRING CHARGES AGAINST CREWMEMBERS.

2. STILL UNCLEAR HOW INCIDENT DEVELOPED, ALTHOUGH APPARENTLY IT WAS INITIATED BY NEPTUNE MATE AND ECUADOREANS REACTED WITH UNDUE FORCE. SHOTS WERE FIRED AND CONSIDERABLE MANUAL VIOLENCE WAS USED. STATEMENTS BEING TAKEN BY CONSULAR OFFICERS FROM ALL CREW MEMBERS.

3. SITUATION EXTREMELY TENSE AND APPEARS IMPERATIVE THAT NEPTUNE DEPART ASAP. DEPT PLEASE CONTACT STARKIST AND URGE THAT THEY BE RECEPTIVE TO BUY BACK IF ORDERED, IN INTERESTS AVOIDING MORE SERIOUS INCIDENTS. WE EXPLORING BUYBACK POSSIBILITY WITH OFFICIALS HERE BUT NEED SOME ASSURANCE OF STARKIST POSITIVE REACTION.

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4. DEWITT REPORTS FORCE USED BY ECUADOREANS ABOARD U.S. VESSEL  
WOULD WARRANT FORMAL PROTEST UNDER MORE NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES.  
HOWEVER, PRIMARY INTEREST NOW IS TO AVOID ACTION AGAINST USC  
CREWMEMBERS WHICH WOULD PROLONG AND EXACERBATE PROBLEM. FORMAL  
PROTEST MIGHT WELL PROMPT ECUADOREAN NAVY TO BRING CHARGES  
TO JUSTIFY THEIR USE OF FORCE.  
DEWITT

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SHIP DETENTION, REPORT, FISHING BOATS, PRISONERS RELEASE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975GUAYAQ00397  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750079-0195  
**From:** GUAYAQUIL  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750377/aaaacrjx.tel  
**Line Count:** 68  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 GUAYAQUIL 393  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 12 SEP 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <12 SEP 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <14 OCT 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

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US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SEIZED U.S. VESSELS: INCIDENT ON NEPTUNE  
**TAGS:** PFOR, EFIS, PLOS, CASC, EC, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006